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1 been devoted to this effort.

2     The naturalistic explanations of the pro-

3 phetic books have been made from a variety of

4 different and sometimes contradictory viewpoints.

5 While the interpreter of the prophetic books

6 must always keep in mind the inherent difficulty

7 of conveying divine thoughts to finite, fallible

8 and sinful human beings, there is no solid basis

9 for denying the simple teaching of the Bible

10 that God spoke to the prophets and that the

11 prophets passed on His messages.

12     B. Denial that Biblical Prophets have been

13 Able to Predict the Future. One of the first to

14 try to explain the prophetic movement from a

15 naturalistic basis was Celsus, a writer who

16 attacked Christianity in the 2nd cent. A. D.

17 Celsus denied that the prophets had truly pre-

18 dicted the future. He dealt particularly with

19 the book of Daniel, claiming that its rather

20 detailed predictions of Alexander the Great and

21 his successors were not actually written until

22 after the events had occurred, so that the

23 alleged predictions were really based upon a

24 later knowledge of what had actually happened.

25 This attitude toward the prophetic predictions

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